

Response
Serial No. 09/622,615
Attorney Docket No. 000774

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 11 and 26 are pending in this application, of which claim 1 has been amended.

No new claims have been added.

Claims 1-5, 11 and 26 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,548,210 B1 (hereinafter the '210 Patent).

Claim 1 has been amended in this Response. The coating layer of amended claim 1 excludes nickel so that it does not overlap with claims 1-18 of U.S. Patent No. 6,548,210.

In view of the above, claims 1-5, 11 and 26, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

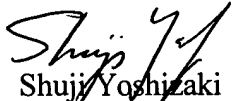
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP


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Limited Recognition

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Attachment: Limited Recognition

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

LIMITED RECOGNITION UNDER 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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Expires: July 7, 2007



Harry I. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline